



OLC 75-2107

27 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

SUBJECT: Conversation with Searle Field

I had a long talk with Searle Field this morning on a number of subjects. The most significant was that the House Select Committee will begin its public hearings again on September 17. Field indicated that these would be "operational level hearings" in which some Agency people would be called. The format would be the same, i.e., public sessions for as much as possible and then executive session. The third set of hearings would, according to Field, include the investigation and they would be held at the end of the year, with the return to the witness stand of those who had testified during the first two weeks. Field said he would give us as much notice as possible with respect to Agency witnesses.

The next problem Field raised dealt with the potential for intimidation of the witnesses. His concern was with the requirement that Agency employees write a memorandum for the record after they had been interviewed by the House Select Committee staffers. Field pointed out that while in the majority of cases this caused no problem, there were individuals who volunteered information relating to other persons and that these Agency employees feared retribution. I pointed out to Field that this created a bit of a problem for us since there have been numerous requests over the last three years for information regarding wrong doings or impropriety. Field coupled the above concern with the requirement that an Agency representative sit in during all interviews. He is aware of the Senate Select Committee's position developing a dicotomy between investigative interviews and abuse interviews and wants to develop something comprobable for the House Select Committee.

I suggested to Field that we could probably work out some arrangement where such volunteer witnesses could indicate ahead of time that they did not require "counsel." Field thought something like that might be satisfactory and underscored the fact that the vast majority of the interviews did not raise this issue.

We talked about Ed Roeders' leaving the House Select Committee staff and the problems that might be raised in this context. At Mr. Blake's request I asked Field to talk to Mr. Gambino with respect to a debriefing of Roeder upon his termination. Field said he would be happy to talk to Gambino with respect to this and would be willing to show him around their facilities on Friday. I used the occasion of the discussion of interviews to point out that some of the reports back from Agency employees did not reflect well on House Select Committee staffers. For example, one of the detailees to NSC -- a secretary -- was asked if she knew any atomic secrets or how to make the atom bomb. Field reacted, as I had hoped, by being quite critical of such foolishness. He asked if we would report back any similar "bad judgment."

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